



PRESS RELEASE

Bene Sustainability Report 2023: Demonstrating a high level of commitment to a future worth living

Wien / Waidhofen an der Ybbs, 16 August 2023 – Bene is synonymous with inspiring office and working environments. The high standards in terms of functionality, quality, design and sustainability can be felt in every single product and project. This Austrian manufacturer operates one of the most modern and efficient production facilities in the office furniture industry in Europe and has now published a Sustainability Report for 2023.

Sustainable, growth-orientated, innovative and successful: Bene was able to increase its sales from 2021 to 2022 by 29 per cent to EUR 176.4 million. This Austrian group is one of the leading manufacturers in the European office furniture industry and reported an innovative capacity* of 31 per cent for 2022. With comprehensive office concepts and holistic, customised solutions, Bene creates individual workstations that make people feel good. Efficient use of materials and resources is a key part of this. In the current Sustainability Report 2023, the company provides a transparent insight into its environmental management, projects, objectives and results for the fourth time.

Declared sustainability objectives until 2030

“Sustainability has always enjoyed a long-standing tradition at Bene”, explains Michael Fried, Executive Board Member For Sales, Marketing, Design & Innovation. “We have already introduced numerous key measures in the past with the aim of reducing our carbon footprint. And this is something we are planning to build on further.” With this in mind, Bene has clearly defined its sustainability objectives until 2030. The focus is on adjusting the entire value chain to reflect the principles of sustainability. That includes developing new recyclable product lines, drawing up an action plan to reduce all emissions, and consistently using sustainable and recyclable materials.

Reduction of waste and emissions

The results show how stringently Bene implements its environmental management objectives. “In 2022, despite significant increases in production, we succeeded in reducing our CO₂ emissions from 621 to 542 t CO₂e¹¹ (–12%),” explains Chief Technical Director, Manfred Huber, Managing Director of

¹ CO₂e = CO₂ equivalents. This unit includes all other greenhouse gases emitted in addition to CO₂, converted into CO₂ values.

*Sales generated with products on the market for less than 5 years.



Operations & Purchasing. Compared to the years 2016 to 2019, we were even able to cut our scope 1 emissions by half. For example, Bene sources its electricity from hydropower and is increasingly opting for electric drive systems when purchasing cars. "In 2021, we became the first furniture manufacturer in Austria to have selected products certified according to the EU Ecolabel," explains Thomas Riegler, Manager of QSE Management. This environmental label, which was launched by the European Commission in 1992, is awarded to products proven to be particularly sustainable. In 2022, the office specialist also installed four new efficient biomass boilers, including an electrostatic filter, in turn successfully phasing out fossil fuels for heating and process heat and making oil heating officially a thing of the past at Bene.

Numerous product certificates

With a clear commitment to implementing sustainability measures, all the decisions that Bene makes favour the environment and society. The quality and environmental management system (ISO 9001 and ISO 14001) has been a guiding principle since 2006. At the same time, the wide range of product certificates demonstrates Bene's commitment to manufacturing safe and environmentally friendly furniture. In 2022, for example, Bene was able to improve its FEMB certification² from Level 2 to Level 3 (the highest level). Thanks to this achievement, the company was able to achieve additional points in the impact areas materials, energy and atmosphere, chemicals management as well as social responsibility. Since a comprehensive circular economy also includes the recycling of waste from production, Bene is active in this area as well. The company returns all offcuts to the chipboard producers, who use these to make new boards.

For a circular economy all the way around

"The circular economy is at the heart of our efforts," says Chief Technical Director, Manfred Huber. "Our objective is to produce durable and timeless furniture for the workplace." To achieve this, sustainability is incorporated into all areas of the company – from product development, purchasing, production and logistics right through to product recycling. Many of the furniture items can therefore be repaired, reconfigured and sorted into separate component types, as this is the only way to avoid waste in the long run. "We are rethinking our design processes," says Michael Fried. "The entire process of product development is now significantly based on ecological requirements. After all, it is our responsibility as a company to provide customers with products that are as sustainable as possible."

² With FEMB level®, the European Office Furniture Federation (FEMB) has created a certification that takes into account almost all sustainability criteria for European public procurement.

INSPIRING OFFICES. SINCE 1790.

BENE GMBH, SCHWARZWIESENSTRASSE 3, A-3340 WAIDHOFEN / YBBS
TARA CATRIONA BICHLER CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
TELEPHONE: +43 (0) 681 81756829 TARA.BICHLER@BENE.COM, BENE.COM



Read here: [Sustainability at Bene | Ecological Thinking & Action](#)

Photo credit: Bene GmbH

About Bene

The international office expert is a specialist in the design and furnishing of office and working environments. Bene defines the office as a living space, and its concepts, products, and services turn this philosophy into a reality. The Bene Group is a globally active company with its head office and production facilities in Waidhofen an der Ybbs, Austria. Development, design, and production, along with consulting and sales, are thereby united under one Austrian roof. As a significant market player in Europe, Bene stands for innovative concepts, inspiring offices, and high-quality design and develops and produces customised solutions for all company sizes – from one-person companies to SMEs and global corporations.

Ecological, economic and social thinking and behaviour celebrate a long tradition at Bene. Sustainability spans all company divisions – from product development, purchasing, production and logistics to product recycling. We see sustainability not just as a requirement but also as an inspiration for using new ideas to advance step by step into a better, sustainable future. www.bene.com

Contact for Bene GmbH

Tara Catriona Bichler

Corporate Communications Manager

+43 676 81511288

tara.bichler@bene.com

Bene GmbH

Neutorgasse 4-8

1010 Vienna

Austria

Contact for PR agency

GeSK

Gabriele von Molitor

Ziegelstraße 29, 10117 Berlin

Tel: +49 30 217 50 460

E-mail: pr@gesk.berlin

www.gesk.berlin